



File Code: 1950/1560

Date: May 29, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

The Ouachita National Forest, Poteau-Cold Springs Ranger District, has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Dogwood project. This project area is in Township 3 North, Range 30 West, Sections 16-21, 29-32; T3N, R31W, S13-25, 22-27, 35 and 36; T2N, R31W, Sections 1-2; and T2N, R30W, S4-9 and 16 in Scott County, Arkansas. Highway 28 travels east/west just north of the project areas. Highway 248 cuts through the middle east/west. Dogwood project area is south of the Poteau Mountain Wilderness Area and west of Waldron, Arkansas. It is northeast of Lake Hinkle Recreation Area. The communities of Cauthron and Hon are located on Highway 28 north of Dogwood.

The project includes timber harvest, prescribe burning, wildlife improvements, and system road improvements for Management Area 22 (Renewal of the Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Grass Ecosystem and Red-cockaded Woodpecker Habitat) in the Revised Forest Plan. The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. Documentation is also available for review at Cold Springs Ranger District office in Booneville, AR.

The EA is available on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/ouachita/landmanagement/projects>.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments per §218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection §218.24(b)(6), §219.53. For issues to be raised in objections, they must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit written comments on a proposed project or activity. The time period for the opportunity to comment on a proposed project or activity to be documented with an environmental assessment shall not be extended. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner.

Written comments must be submitted to: District Ranger, P.O. Box 417, Booneville, AR 72927 or fax to 479-675-3232. Oral or hand-delivered comments may be made at 1541 Hwy 248 West, Waldron, AR during normal weekday business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to SM.FS.r8oucsprdcom@usda.gov.





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ouachita National Forest
Cold Springs Ranger District

PO Box 417
Booneville, AR 72927

For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request §218.24(b)(8). Please state "Dogwood project" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail. After considering your comments, the Forest Service will finalize the EA. Prior to decision, an objection period will be provided on the final EA and a draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact. If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact Donna Reagan at donna.reagan@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/Ed Spence
Edwin Spence
Acting District Ranger

